I. GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

Habitat

101 The Timbira habitat extends from 3° to 9° S. latitude and from 42° to 49° W.
131 longitude—through the northeastern part of the Central Brazilian steppe area, where that area adjoins the southeastern tip of the Amazon rain forests. The tropical forest extends back of the coastal steppe strip liable to inundation, beginning at a point on the Tocantins somewhat above the Araguaya confluence, and includes the entire Gurupy basin, the middle and lower Pindaré, the lower Grajahú, and the lower Mearim. Its domain comprises the present habitat of the following Timbira tribes: the Western Gaviões; the Krẽyé of Cajuapára; the Krẽyé and Kukóekamekra of Bacabal.*

134 But by far the greatest part of Timbira territory is covered by high steppes and
137 dry forest; tall timber occurs only in the form of *galeria* forests along the brooks
133 and rivers, also at times on the slopes of the so-called mountains (*serras*), at the foot of which these watercourses usually develop from many minor springs. These inextensive wooded tracts are of great economic significance for the steppe Indian, since they offer the only soil suitable for his primitive husbandry.

The *galeria* forest further provides not only the material for housebuilding, but also the extremely important burity palm (*Mauritia flexuosa*), the leaves of which furnish the main material for basketry while its fruits are edible and its trunks are made into logs carried in relay races. Further, there are the oleaginous babassu palm (*Orbignia speciosa*); the sororóca (*Heliconia* sp.) with its gigantic leaves, indispensable in Indian cookery; and many other useful plants.

The predominant part of the Timbira steppes consists of *campos cerrados*, that is, grass tracts with more or less dense stands of trees and bushes. Absolutely pure steppes I have seen only in the upper Pindaré country, and even these were only of minor extent. The two Timbira tribes of that region—Krîkatí and Pukóbye—
[101] are accordingly called by the other members of their branch Popéykateye (inhabitants of true [or beautiful], pey, steppes, põ).

The prevailing grass species is Capim agreste (*Pannascum* sp.). Noteworthy among the trees are the sucupira (*Cassiea* sp.), which symbolizes for the Timbira the power of resistance; the sambahyba (*Couratella* sp.), whose rough leaves serve to polish wood; the pau de leite (*Sapium* sp.), whose latex when mixed with powdered charcoal forms the favorite pigment; the tucum palm (*Astrocaryum* sp.), important for its fibers; the almecegueira (*Protium* sp.) with an odorous rosin much used in decorative outfits; finally, the fruit-bearing piquy (*Caryocar* sp.), bacury (*Platonia* sp.), and the mangabeira (*Hancornia* sp.).

[134] The soil is mostly sandy, more rarely clayey, and still more rarely rocky. The
133 northern Timbira country is rather flat, rising only quite imperceptibly southward.
[114] Even the most recent maps (Stieler, 1928) crowd the southern half with mountain chains—to the grave disappointment of an observer on the spot, who finds simply mesas and small plateaus with steep slopes, sporadic residual phenomena, mostly

104 * In the rendering of the aboriginal terms with which the monograph bristles it seemed best to adhere to the orthography established for The Apinayé, a slight simplification of that chosen by Nimuendajú himself. A tilde over vowels indicates nasalization; a short hook below a vowel designates it as postpalatal. The latter symbol is necessary, because it defines a phonemic difference. The following values hold for symbols requiring explanation:

ẽ = first German e in Ehe
õ = German o in ohne
ã, ü = as in German
ŋ = half vocalic ng
š = English sh
č = Spanish ch
ž = French j
x = German ch in ach
' = glottal stop

GLOSSARY

164

Akwẽ	branch of the Gê family
Apąnyekra	Eastern Timbira tribe, one of the three Canella tribes
Apinayé	the Western Timbira
atỹkmakra	one of the two rainy season moieties
babassu	*Orbignia speciosa*, palm tree of great economic importance
bacaba	*Oenocarpus* sp., palm of *galeria* forests
burity	*Mauritia flexuosa*, palm species of great economic importance, especially in providing material for basketry
Canella	Neobrazilian term for Kénkateye, Apąnyekra, and Rąmkõkamekra jointly; sometimes applied for convenience as synonym of last mentioned
Čąkamekra	Eastern Timbira tribe
Čąrčą	Grid (feminine name)
Čątú	Fox-belly (name of author's special hąpín, a prominent man)
čų	pendent ceremonial decoration
čųkate	one of four officials wearing čų
Gamella	two tribes in Maranhão, possibly unrelated to each other, both distinct from the Gê, but those of Vianna are culturally similar to the Timbira
Gaviões (W.)	forest-dwelling Timbira tribe, according to legend an offshoot of the Pykõbye or Eastern Gaviões
Guajajára	a Tupi tribe
Hąktõkót	Falcon (sp.), name of Canella chief and medicine-man
hąmkrán	special kind of racing log
hąmrón	member of ceremonial nobility
hapąnkate	the catcher, an officer in ceremonials
hąpín	"friend" of special type, by formal ceremony (hąpínpey, special "friend"), a respect relationship
harãkateye	western moiety or age-class moiety
harąrumenkąčą	western plaza moiety
hõčwá	sweet potato ceremony (lit., pointed leaf)
hõyakrékate (hũyakrékate)	one of the terminal ceremonies of the ceremonial season
inambú	bird (*Tinamus* sp., *Crypturus* sp.)
jacaré	caiman (*Caiman niger*)
jacú	fowl (*Penelope* sp.)
juçara	*Euterpe* sp., palm in *galeria* forests
Kąe	name of a precentor
-kahąk	substitute, imitating; like ———
Kaingang	Southern Gê tribe, east of Paraná River, west of São Paulo and Florianopolis
kąmakra	one of the two rainy season moieties
Kapẽrtųk	Black bacaba, name of deputy commandant of pepyé
kaprąnpotíkama	a Canella age class
Karékateye	extinct Eastern Timbira tribe
Kayapó	name of two distinct Gê tribes (N. and S.)
Kénkateye	Eastern Timbira tribe, one of the three Canella tribes
Kentapí	Stone-heap, name of a precentress
ketúaye (from: mentúa, boy)	first initiation phase; novices of this phase
kỹ'ikateye	eastern moiety (kỹ'i, east) or eastern age-class moiety
kỹ'irumenkąča	eastern plaza moiety
kõkrỹ't	masquerade outfit; Mummers' festival
kokrų'tkama (kukrų'tkama)	a Canella age class

1t. Nimuendaju E-5 (1929-1936) 1946 SO8 Timbira SO8

104

Krakõ'	Eastern Timbira tribe
Krε'pų'mkateye	Eastern Timbira tribe
Krẽỹé	(of Bacabal), an Eastern Timbira tribe of the northern group; (of Cajuapára), an Eastern Timbira tribe of the southern group
Krĩkati	Eastern Timbira tribe
Krõ'rekamekra	extinct Eastern Timbira tribe
Kukrãčą'	Bees'-nest, name of a Canella chief
Kukóekamekra	(of Bacabal), an Eastern Timbira tribe, northern group
kupẽ	alien tribe
kwę'i	woman (appears in proper names and other special designations, e.g., Mĩkwę'i, Crocodile-girl; Putkwę'i, Sun-girl; kąkwęiye, female member of rainy season moiety)
Kwuĵkõ'	name of a Canella snake doctor
kwų'nõ'	"friend" by special ceremony, exercises privileged familiarity
mamkyε'ti	leader of an age class
meipimrą'k	the nonceremonial season (approximately the rainy season)
mekapónkate	instructor of an age class, "commandant"
mekuičwę'i	one of the two girl associates of a men's organization
menkąčą	plaza group
mepantũa	the two younger of the four sportively active age classes
me'kẽ'n	Clown society (lit., a water-bird species)
Nyurukwayé	extinct Gê people, once west of Tocantins, south of Apinayé
Otshukayana	extinct tribe of doubtful affinity in Rio Grande do Norte
paca	*Coelogenys paca*
Pądnhi	Arara-bone, masculine name
pąra	special type of log used in relay races (special forms: pąrare, pą'rakahák)
paty	*Orcus* sp., a palm tree; scrapings from the leafstalks furnish a pinkish-yellow woolly substance, used like falcon down, for which the Apinayé wholly substitute it
pan d'arco	*Tecoma* sp., the wood is used for bows
pẽp	warrior
pepkahą'k	major festival, member of the performing group
pepyé	the second phase of initiation; the novices of this phase
pereá	*Cavia* sp.
pey	special (põhĵpey, native maize; pinčwę'ipey; hąpinpey)
piabinha	small fish (*Tetragonopterus* sp.)
pinčwę'i	female "friend" corresponding to male hąpín
piranha	predatory fish (*Serrasalmo* sp.)
põhę'kama (põhĵ'kama)	a Canella age class
põhĵtĩkama	a Canella age class
Põrekamekra	extinct Eastern Timbira tribe
Pųduvrĵ	Moon
Pųkóbye	Eastern Timbira tribe
Pųt	Sun
Pųtõ'	name of a precentor
Rąmkõ'kamekra	the principal Canella tribe (Eastern Timbira)
Ropką'	Jaguar-skin, name of Canella chief
sariema	bird (*Cariama cristata* Linn.)
sororóca	*Heliconia* sp., whose leaves play great part in cuisine
sucupira	*Cassiea* sp., tree serving as symbol of power of resistance
sucuriju	anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*)
Šavánte	Central Gê tribe
Šerénte	Central Gê tribe
taitetũ	peccary (*Dicotyles labiatus*), commonly tamed as a pet and ceremonially killed
tamhą'k	King Vulture, title of honorary chief of alien Timbira tribe

1: Nimuendajú E-5 (1929-1936) 1946 SOS Timbira SOS

● 104

tepyarkwá	Fish-mouth, i.e., Fish-chant, a major festival
-ti	big (põhjti, big maize)
tucum	*Astrocaryum* sp., important for its fibers
-tum	ex-; mekuičwę̣itum, former girl associate
vę̣'tę̣'	the ceremonial period; one of the two girl associates of an age class
wakõ'kama	a Canella age class

104 Phonology

Vowels:

194 *a, e, i, o, u* = as in German

e̥, i̥, u̥ = glottal stops

ę̊ = open "e," as in Fr. "è," e.g., in "mère"

ǫ = open "o," as in Fr. "port"

ą = dark "a," as in "Aalesund" /in Ger./

ã, õ, ũ = nasalization

y = consonantal "i"

w = consonantal "u"

ai, oa, ŏi, ua, ęi, ea = diphthongal sounds, to be pronounced separately

a͡i = to be pronounced as one sound

(a) = reduced vowel, scarcely or not at all audible

ā = length

ă = shortness

á = word accent

Consonants:

b, d, g, h, k, l, m, n, p, s, t = as in German

č = German "tsch"

r = prepalatal sound, made by a short single flap of the tip of the tongue against the fore part of the palate

z = voiced "s," as in Fr. "maison"

χ = "ch" in "Nacht" /in Ger./

Consonant Combinations:

ts, kr, kl, pp, kχ. In addition there are a few sounds of the Mẽkubengokrã words.

a̲ = intermediate sound between "a" and "ę"

ṅ = "ng" as in "Engel" /in Ger./

ń = palatal "n"

ǰ = German "d" and Fr. "j"